

U.S. Application No.: NEW
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Attorney Docket: 3926.129

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the title with the following title:
"METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPERATION OF A POINTING UNIT ON A
PROCESS MACHINE"

Please add the following paragraph after the title:

Cross Reference To Related Application

[0001] This application is a **national stage** of PCT/EP2003/009440 filed August 26, 2003 and based upon DE 102 40 225.6 filed August 28, 2002 under the International Convention.

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a method for operation of a pointing unit on a process machine, and to a pointing unit on a process machine, ~~as claimed in the precharacterizing clauses of patent claims 1 and 16.~~

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

[0009] The invention is based on the object of providing a novel method for operation of a pointing unit on a process machine, as well as a process machine having a pointing device for carrying out the method ~~as claimed in the precharacterizing clauses of~~

~~patent claims 1 and 16~~, which makes it possible to communicate with people and/or with other process machines.

Please replace paragraph [00010] with the following amended paragraph:

[00010] According to the invention, the object is achieved by a method for operation of a process machine with the surrounding area being recorded by means of sensors during operation, on whose basis object identification is carried out by means of a computer unit, and with the process sequence being switched off, reorganized or replanned taking into account obstructions detected in the working area of the process machine, characterized in that optical communication is set up by means of a pointing unit, which is fitted to the process machine, between the process machine and people and/or other process machines, wherein patterns are deliberately projected onto objects located in the area surrounding the process machine by means of an illumination unit, for optical communication and a pointing unit having the features of patent claims 1 and 16 a process machine, comprising sensors by means of which data relating to the surrounding area is recorded dynamically during operation of the process machine, a computer unit by means of which object identification is carried out on the basis of the data relating to the surrounding area, a control unit and further means are provided, in order to switch off, reorganize or replan the process sequence taking into account obstructions detected in the working area of the process machine, characterized in that the process machine is provided with a

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pointing unit for communication purposes, with the pointing unit having an illumination unit, by means of which communication is carried out between the process machine and people and/or other process machines, and by means of which patterns are deliberately projected onto objects which are located in the area surrounding the process machine. Advantageous refinements and developments of the invention are described in the dependent claims.